

Amendments to the CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 cancelled.

17. (Currently amended) A process for manufacturing a multilayer plastic fuel tank comprising at least one opening in its wall, closed off by a sulphonated plastic part, wherein the following steps are carried out, in the order indicated:

- a) at least a portion of the wall of the tank is manufactured using a moulding technique, comprising at least one operation chosen from blow moulding and compression moulding;
- b) the opening is closed off by means of a sulphonated plastic part which is sulphonated over ~~at least a portion in contact with the internal volume of the tank~~ its entire surface; and
- c) the part closing off the opening is ~~fastened~~ welded to the wall of the tank and wherein ~~said~~ the portions of the sulphonated plastic part which are welded to the wall of the tank are machined prior to said welding so as to substantially remove a sulphonated upper surface from the portions welded to the wall.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 17, wherein the sulphonated part was manufactured beforehand in three steps consisting, in order, of:

- a) a first step of moulding a plastic comprising, at least in a portion of the part, at least 0.1% by weight of polyalkyleneimine with respect to the total material of the sulphonated portion of the part;
- b) a step of sulphonating at least that portion of the part in contact with the gaseous or liquid SO₃; and

- c) a final step of rinsing followed by neutralization of at least the contact-sulphonated portion of the part by means of an alkaline solution.
- 20. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 19, wherein the moulding operation is selected from injection moulding, extrusion, blow moulding and compression moulding.
- 21. (Cancelled)
- 22. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 17, wherein the part is an accessory of the fuel tank.
- 23. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 22, wherein the accessory is chosen from closure plates, tank venting and/or shut-off valves, delivery tubes for the flow of gas and/or liquid, connectors for at least an electrical cable and/or at least an optical fibre, connection sockets for pump-gauge modules, filling necks, safety valves and auxiliary additive tanks.
- 24. (Cancelled)